



Connecticut Guardian



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First of its Kind: TASS Regional Meeting Held in Connecticut

By Staff Sgt. STEVE MARKOWSKI
65th PCH

With the reserve components being called to active duty more and more, it's more important than ever before that their soldiers train to the same standards as their active Army counterparts. That was a main message at a conference detailing the importance of The Army School System, held September 16th at the U.S. Naval Base in Groton.

The conference drew 70 senior officers and senior enlisted personnel from throughout the northeastern states, and as far away as Washington state. It was geared mainly for the states represented in the 169th Leadership Regiment, commanded by Col. Bruce Byrne, who initiated the conference.

"He felt Connecticut should take the lead in establishing this type of conference," Lt. Col. James Caporizo said. "People were

invited from all over the country, and we're fortunate to have subject matter experts from Fort Benning, TRADOC and the U.S. Sergeants Major Academy."

The experts were there to stress the importance of TASS to Assistant Adjutants General, Plans, Operations and Training Officers, as well as others who focus on developing soldiers' skills, especially those associated with leadership.

Organizers stated that the vision of the conference fits in with the goal of the Deputy Chief to the Secretary of Defense for Education (DSCED) to enhance Army readiness through an efficient, fully-integrated educational system that guarantees soldiers of all components are trained to a single standard. The importance of the subject matter is highlighted by the stated mission of the

DCSED, which is to prepare for war by facilitating successful implementation of TASS.

State Adjutant General Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno welcomed the attendees to Connecticut, saying Connecticut is taking the lead in this type of conference because it is home to the headquarters of the 169th Leadership Regiment. In his welcoming remarks, Cugno said TASS is a critical mission.

He stressed the importance of citizen-soldiers training to the same standards as their active duty counterparts, especially with the increase in National Guard and Reserve units being called up for extended active duty tours. He spoke of the move toward a "one-Army concept" is well underway, in line with the vision of Army



Chief of Staff Gen. Shinseki. TASS is essential to this, Cugno said.

Currently, the Connecticut National Guard has one unit on active duty in the Balkan

See TASS on page 20

Hispanic Heritage Celebration

By Maj. CHARLES McKELLAR
Public Affairs HQ CTANG

On September 15, members of the Armed Forces, veterans, family members and community members gathered at the Stage East in East Hartford to celebrate the Ninth Annual Hispanic Heritage Month and recognize awardees from the Connecticut National Guard, United States Postal Service, students from the Connecticut public school system, community leaders and community organizations.

Mr. Jose Buscaglia, a sculptor and Fellow National Sculptor Society member, was the guest speaker. Buscaglia is perhaps one of the most prolific artists in the field of monumental sculptor. He has held major shows at Harvard University, Yale University, Rockefeller Center in New York, and several locations in Washington, D.C., Barcelona, and Madrid. His early arrival provided many opportunities for those who had gathered to meet him and

exchange greetings. Buscaglia used this time to speak with many members of the uniform services, family members and friends of the Connecticut National Guard. When asked what this day meant to him, Buscaglia said, "This is an opportunity for us to come together as a community and share the many good things we have gained by working together."

After a brief time for socializing, the ceremony kicked off with the presentation and posting of the colors. The ceremony continued with Master Sgt. Yvonne Alverio, Mistress of Ceremonies, welcoming everyone to the ninth annual celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. She acknowledged the United States Postal Service, the Connecticut National Guard and the Hispanic Professional Network as the sponsors of this year's celebration with the theme, "Children: Our Hope for the Future." Alverio has for many years

attended, or been involved in organizing events to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. "Today I am especially proud to stand before you in the uniform I have worn for the past 25 years," she said. She talked briefly about a phone call she made to her father who is a World War II veteran whom was assigned to an all Puerto Rican unit fighting in the Pacific. "We talked about how much things have changed, and yet how much more we still need change."

One of the changes Alverio and her father agreed has been for the good, is the recognition and appreciation of ethnic differences as celebrated through many of the ethnic heritage and history programs held throughout the year.

"The purpose of the Hispanic Heritage Celebration is to recognize and to foster increased awareness and understanding of the contributions and achievements of Hispanic Americans," she said.



See Heritage on page 20

UP FRONT WITH THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

By MAJ. GEN. WILLIAM A. CUGNO,
ADJUTANT GENERAL



Voting: Your Right and Responsibility
This is a very important election year for our state and country. On Nov. 7, Americans will head to the polls to elect local, state and federal lawmakers, including a new president. Voting is not only a right enjoyed by all Americans, but a responsibility.

According to the League of Women Voters, in the 1998 election, barely more than a third of the voting-age population went to the polls. In 1996, voter turnout was 49 percent of the voting-age population, the lowest voter turnout on record for a presidential race.

Very few people turn out to vote, and yet many are quick to criticize the work being done in the local, state and federal governments. Again, this is a right we enjoy as Americans, but if you see something wrong, or something you don't like, ask yourself this question, "What can I do to fix this?" The answer, in this case, is to educate yourself on the candidates

and issues, then go to the polls on Nov. 7. If you are not yet a registered voter, go to your town hall and see the Registrar of Voters. Many towns also have voter registration booths set up at local special events. You will need proof of identity and proof of residency. You will be asked what party affiliation you would like to register as, or if you'd prefer to register as an independent, and you will then be sworn in as a voter. The whole process takes only a few minutes. You may still register to vote in this year's election until Oct. 23. You may also be able to register online.

As soldiers, airmen, retirees and military family members, it is very important we get out and vote. There are very few professions out there that depend on election results to determine their professional futures. Who we elect does just that. These are the people who will determine the funding for our training, equipment,

modernization of existing facilities and equipment, and our pay raises.

As such, it is very important that we educate ourselves on where each candidate stands on military funding and preparedness, as well as all the other issues that affect us as citizens, parents and students.

Do your research, register to vote if you have not already done so, and go to the polls between 6 a.m. and 8 p.m. on Nov. 7. It's not only your right, it's your responsibility.



**Remember
to vote on
November 7th!!**

**He who has a
why to live for
can bear almost
any how.**

Friedrich Nietzsche



By STATE COMMAND
SERGEANT MAJOR
STEPHEN L. PRIMETT

ENLISTED UPDATE

With the start of the new Fiscal year upon us, now is a good time to look over all your personnel equipment.

Uniforms, to include BDU's, Class "A"s, boots and low quarters need to be the best condition possible. If you prepare now and get your orders in to replace worn and faded equipment, it should be here for the start of Annual Training 01.

On more than one occasion I have asked soldiers why they have not turned in worn out BDU's and got the standard answer, "I've asked for new ones, but they haven't come in yet." When you place your order, get the document number assigned to your name and you can track your order if the replacement issue you order is not available on site. Follow up with your platoon sergeant if the order is not received in a timely manner.

Appearance is a big factor in moral of soldiers. There should be no excuse for a soldier needing a hair cut, having unshined boots or shoes, worn-out uniforms and covers that look like grease pits. Leadership means setting the example; being the standard. Expect the best from your soldiers and that's what you'll get, but only if you are the example.

AR670-1, Wear and Appearance of Army Uniforms and Insignia, has been updated and is available on the Internet. There are changes that effect the look of our soldiers, to include rules governing finger nail polish, tattoos, body piercing and hairstyles among many others. First Sergeants and platoon sergeants should get a copy.

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Deadline for submissions is the first Friday of the month prior to the month of publication.

Civil Air Patrol, OEM on the Right Training Track

By SPC. KARYN REYNOLDS,
65th PCH

The Civil Air Patrol (CAP) and Office of Emergency Management (OEM) joined forces the weekend of September 9, 2000 to perform one of their many emergency response training missions. This particular weekend, the mission was an emergency response action to a (simulated) train wreck. Over 150 people participated in the training, over 40 of which were teenage cadets. These cadets were charged with the task of simulating the scene of an actual train wreck. The site of the scene was in Westport, Conn., one of the many destinations along the Metro-North, New Haven Line.

The mission was officiated by OEM's Dana Conover, AFNSEP's Col. Olmsted, and CAP's 1LT Marty Sullivan. These teams coordinated their efforts to show just what would happen in the event of a train wreck in lower Fairfield County. This was no small undertaking. At approximately 9:30 a.m. Saturday morning, Westport, for all intents and purposes, had a major train wreck on their hands. The fire department and police were called to respond to the

scene along with ambulance services. Local hospitals had to be notified, seeking rooms and treatment for the 80+ individuals that were injured or worse. Support services were alerted all over Fairfield County, just as they would be in the event of an emergency of this proportion.

Much goes on behind the scenes that few often consider. Services such as air traffic control serve a supporting role to determine the best ambulance routes, state troopers are charged with maneuvering traffic to provide accelerated access to area hospitals. Blood banks are alerted for critical shipments. Fire departments are charged with commanding the scenes and then there's the Civil Air Patrol.

Who is the Civil Air Patrol? The Civil Air Patrol was founded on December 1, 1941, one week before Pearl Harbor. The CAP consists mainly of civilian aircraft enthusiasts, from pilots of small aircraft to mechanics and thrill seekers. Its purpose was to help out in war efforts and coastal patrol. During World War II, the CAP provided search and rescue, disaster relief, and coastal patrol. After

WWII, Congress made it the US Air Force Auxiliary on May 26, 1948. Since then, the Civil Air Patrol has had three main missions: 1) Emergency Services, 2) Aerospace Education, and 3) the Cadet Program.

CAP plays a vital role in disaster relief operations. Primarily, they provide air and ground transportation, fly relief to remote locations and support disaster relief organizations. They are the ones transporting the blood to the hospitals, they're flying the rescue teams, they're transporting victims by airlift and they are communicating at every step, what action should be taken next.

They have a massive communications network that includes the latest technology including video transmission (of actual sites), satellite imaging and feed, high frequency radio and all the gadgets you secretly want for your birthday. They support local, state and national disaster relief organizations with manpower and directly support the U.S. Air Force, and they are all volunteers!



Ryan K. Carlton, 18
South Windsor, CT

A - I want to have a better future career - by joining, I think I increase my chances of being a State Trooper some day.

B - I hope to gain a better attitude towards life, and a greater respect for others and rules.

C - I hope to give back through service - I'm helping protect freedom. I also hope to be able to help others in their time of need.

See further BTOC interviews
on page 13.



On the right, Congressman Sam Gejdenson (D-CT-2nd) left, and Lt. Col. Bill Shea, President of the National Guard Association of Connecticut (NGACT), discuss a few issues at the Congressman's visit to Camp Rowland and Stones Ranch. Gejdenson recently visited the facilities to observe the construction of the new billets, pavilion and the Fire Arms Training System (FATS). Gejdenson had the opportunity to utilize the (FATS) to see first hand the type of training our guardsmen go through. On the left, Gejdenson looks over the engine of a HUMVEE during his visit to Stones Ranch. The Congressman was given a tour of the 2,200-acre tactical training facility. (Photos by Maj. John Whitford, State Public Affairs Officer.)

118TH PARTICIPATES IN EMPIRE PEAK

By MAJ. KEVIN McMAHON,
COMMANDER, HSC 118TH ASMB

The 118th Area Support Medical Battalion just completed one of its most rewarding Annual Training periods in many years, according to its battalion commander, Lt. Col. Stanley Syman. As members

of the Joint State Task Force (JSTF) participating in Empire Peak, the 118th established two Medical Treatment Facilities at two separate locations in Rome, N.Y. and

Fort Drum, N.Y. The facility at Fort Drum was set-up in a field environment. The clinics remained operational for twenty-four hours daily and received patients during hours of darkness, no different than the emergency room of a local hospital.

As members of the JSTF, under the Command of the 143rd Area Support Group, the 118th was assigned as the medical task force in support of the 27th BDE (Enhanced) from the New York Army National Guard. The 27th will be undergoing a rotation at the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) at Fort Polk, La. in the summer of 2001. This exercise (Empire Peak) was the rehearsal for next year's rotation.

The Headquarters Support Company was responsible for providing all real-world medical support to the soldiers that rotated through the ISB (Intermediate Staging Base) that was located at



Griffiss Business and Technology Park, the former Griffiss Air Force Base, in Rome, New York. They moved to Rome on 05 Aug and were operational by 0600 on 06 Aug. Over 5100 soldiers from seven states rotated through the ISB and conducted rehearsals to prepare for their move to Fort Drum.

The tarmac at Griffiss B & T was unrecognizable due to the over 1000 vehicles that were parked there creating the GAC (Ground Assault Convoy). Throughout the next twelve days they treated over 350 real-world injuries ranging from the occasional bump and bruise to respiratory arrest and coordinating a life-saving Nightingale flight to Walter Reed hospital utilizing the United States Air Force. These soldiers took The Hush House, a jet engine testing facility, and created a functional clinic to treat, hold and return to duty

(RTD) all patients throughout the duration of AT 2000.

The Battalion Headquarters was deployed to Fort Drum, and was tasked to create a Medical Task Force in support of all the soldiers that would eventually end up in the BOX, (the actual maneuver area). Commanded by Syman, the 118th Task Force consisted of units that had never before been assembled. They utilized the 691st FST (Forward Surgical Team) from the USAR located in Utica, N.Y. as the primary clinical support to the operation. Syman also brought in C/11 from Ohio, a unit that is one of the subordinate units organic to the 118th, as well as the 141st MED CO (Ground Ambulance) from New Britain.

With the surgeons assigned to the 691st, one coming from as far away as Texas, they performed several operations in the field. From what we are told, this has never before been done at Fort Drum and even the State Surgeon from New York was surprised. They removed moles and cysts on a number of different patients, which allowed them to employ all of the necessary sterile procedures to include the use of local anesthesia.

This was the first time that a United States Army Reserve medical unit had come under the command and control of a National Guard unit.

One of the most challenging aspects of commanding an organization with so many diversified specialties is ensuring every soldier has the opportunity to work within their specific skill area. Throughout

the duration of this exercise, the 118th was afforded the opportunity to employ all of the ancillary MOS's within the Battalion.

From the PAD (patient administration) to the Bio-Medical Equipment Repair Specialist, all of the soldiers were able to perform within their specific MOS.



***Men are not
prisoners of fate, but
only prisoners of
their own minds.***

***Franklin Delano
Roosevelt***

Muscling His Way to the Top

By CAPT. GEORGE H. WORRALL
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

An Air National Guard services specialist has qualified for national competition by placing high in regional bodybuilding competitions during July and August.

Air Guardsman Senior Airman Charles M. Bascetta Jr., services specialist, 103rd Services Flight, has earned first, second and fourth place titles despite beginning competition halfway through this bodybuilding season.

Although he has lifted weights for nine years, this is his first season of competition. His father bought him a weight set when he was in seventh grade. The weight lifting was first just part of his training for wrestling. Throughout high school he worked out for wrestling, then after high school, he continued weight training.

"I decided I needed a goal ... a direction ... why was I doing this [weightlifting]. I decided hey, why not just try it. I have a lot of great genetics both my father and grandfather are short stocky Italians," said Bascetta.

How does he train? According to Bascetta it takes 100 percent discipline. "Training becomes your whole life twenty-four-seven, the diet, posing, conditioning and sculpting. It is what makes it an art and a science."

"Ninety-nine percent is not gonna get it. I have no trainer; all my information comes from books like Arnold's Body Building Encyclopedia. It is the bible of body building," said Bascetta. He also reads some of the fitness magazines and has built up a lot of knowledge over the years.

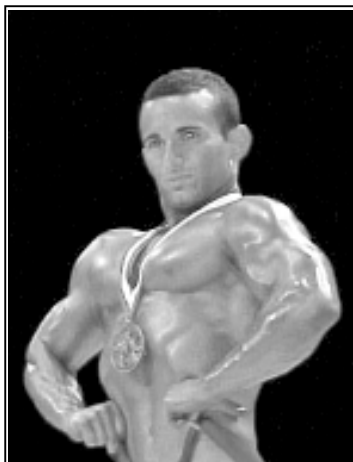
His success and discipline speaks for itself. During August in Maine, he won first in the junior division where he got best poser. He was the only bantam weight in the Men's Open, so they bumped him up a class to light weight where he still took fourth in what he described as "a much bigger class."

He has qualified for the national tournament in both divisions where he competes. He is in the juniors age group division, 23 or younger, and bantamweight class, the lightest class, where he is usually ten pounds under the 143 pound maximum.

The national tournament for the North American Bodybuilding Federation (NABF) is scheduled for November 18 in Somerset, Mass. Somerset is the largest NABF tournament in New England.

Before the national tournament, Bascetta will have competed September 16 at the Greater Boston Classic in Lowell, Mass., October 7 at the North East Regionals, October 28 at the Biogenics Fall Classic.

The constant training requires a strict diet. "Since I constantly use my muscles, I need to constantly feed them so I eat every two



Chuck Bascetta with his 1st place pose at the Maine State Supernatural Championship. (Photo by Charles M. Bascetta Sr.)

hours," said Bascetta. "I limit carbohydrates, eat very high protein food and drink two gallons of water a day."

To prepare for the competition he alters his diet slightly. The week prior to competition he progressively dehydrates. This must be done in a healthy manner so it does not show in appearance, which is called looking soft. "I cut all sodium out, then add more cardiovascular work to burn off that little extra fat," said Bascetta.

Bascetta competes in the "Supernatural" circuit, so he cannot use anything to enhance his performance. At the competition he is tested for all types of drugs, diuretics, steroids and compounds. One of baseballs star slugger's was reported using a drug called AndrØ to increase testosterone. Bascetta said he is also tested for testosterone, "if it is too high you can be disqualified."

So what is his next goal?

"My whole goal, during my first season, is to improve," said Bascetta. "I am happy with my posing; but I want more body-mass and to get more cut. I have to be happy as long as I improve."

"I can work my way up to pro under this federation under the all natural classification," said Bascetta. As he adds more wins to his portfolio he may be selected for endorsements, "In this field they will not just pick anyone ... you need the wins."

Does he have suggestions even for non-competitive bodybuilding? "Once you have the psychological discipline, the rest is just getting down the routine," said Bascetta who clearly has the routine.



Initially an excavator was used to lift the Heavy Girder Overhead Bridge (HGOB) components (above), until the OC "killed" it and the troops had to resort to manpower (below). See full article on page 15.



The Best Way To Learn Something: Teach, Assess, Counsel

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CAPT. SCOTT WILSON,
ASSISTANT STATE PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

We all know the acronym. It sometimes evokes memories of fear; however, upon inspection, most of us could probably say it really makes us think of words like pride, motivation, respect, and leadership. The acronym also brings back memories of places where we were challenged and grew. It reminds us of faces of people that became role models...people that were god-like to us for a time, and that eventually, we realized, were our extended family. People that showed us what it means to be a leader, and how to do it.

The acronym is "TAC." It means "Teach, Assess, and Counsel," but to the three Officer Candidate School (OCS) TACs of the 169th Leadership Regiment, it means much, much more.

First lieutenants David L. Pickel (Infantry), Michael J. Sipples (Infantry), and Pat A. Libero (Engineer) are the embodiment of the acronym. They are reposed the special trust and confidence of building Connecticut's new junior officers in the OCS program. Each has his specialties, his own leadership style, and his own motivations. Each, also, has achieved the minimum requirements to fulfill the role, including the Total Army Instructor Training Course (TAITC), the TAC Training and Orientation Course (TTOC), completion of their branch Basic Course, and an exemplary record of leadership, tactical and technical proficiency and

physical fitness. But, aside from meeting the requirements, why do these officers choose to be TACS?

"We wanted to have a part in OCS, because we had such a fantastic experience when going through the program ourselves," all three agreed. "This is our way to give back."



First Lt. David L. Pickel, an OCS TAC, discusses some of the finer points of soldiering with a member of OCS Class 46.

Giving back includes countless hours of preparation to ensure that candidates are given the necessary experiences and learning opportunities to make them capable junior officers. The OCS program, while following the typical Guard service model (one weekend a month with a two-week annual training period at each end), spans over a full year, and takes the candidates through several phases.

Phase 0 is a voluntary phase in which candidates complete administrative requirements and are introduced to land navigation and leadership skills. Phase 1 is the "basic training" phase, in which candidates explore land navigation further, are introduced to the five-paragraph operations order, and learn the full chain of command and some military history. Phase 2 represents the transition from directive to participative leadership for the candidates, and culminates in Phase 3, a two-week training exercise at Ft. Benning, Georgia. All training is based on infantry fundamentals, stressing the theme that we are all soldiers first, regardless of eventual branch.

"I give the candidates a lot of credit. It is very hard for them to prepare for weekend drills, in which they have to come from their everyday jobs and be in the mental state to do all of this," says Pickel. "The goal is to get these folks to the point of running all this training themselves so that they test themselves as leaders," Sipples adds.

The weekend drill usually begins with a briefing from the candidates to the TACS on the weekend events. Throughout the

drills, candidates experience different levels of leadership challenges through a "rotating" chain of command, and aside from their training requirements, also publish a class newsletter.

"While it is a lot, it is good, because we don't have to worry about attrition...the

"The hardest part is to motivate an individual to realize his or her full potential," says Sipples. Pickel's view is slightly different.

"We are fulfilling a 'role model' of sorts in our position, so we have to ensure that our knowledge and standards exceed those of the candidates," says Pickel. "We also ensure that there is always a reason we do something - a reaction for every action - and we do everything we ask the candidates to do."

All three agree that their biggest rewards are watching the candidates grow as leaders and individuals, and watching themselves grow in the same ways.

"Being a TAC makes the TAC a better soldier, too," Libero notes. "The best way to learn something is to teach it, so we definitely benefit, too."

Teach, Assess, Counsel...not just a job description or acronym. The three TACS of the OCS program realize that this acronym represents a responsibility, and are honored to be granted such a title.

**LEADERSHIP IS
TO BE BOTH A
SPEAKER OF
WORDS AND A DOER
OF DEEDS.
ANONYMOUS**



First Lt. Michael J. Sipples checks out the boots of an officer candidate during a recent training weekend at Camp Rowland.



First Lt. Pat A. Libero sits behind a bunker of sandbags in the TAC Shack at Camp Rowland and updates student files.

Cannonball Run Benefits Charities

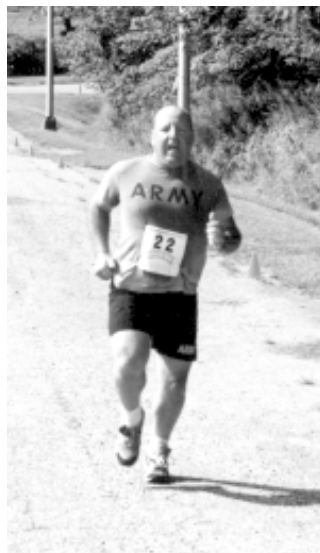
PHOTOS BY SGT. 1ST CLASS DEBBI NEWTON,
STATE SENIOR PA NCO

For the 18th year, Company A, 242nd Engineer Battalion in Norwalk sponsored the annual Cannonball Run. This year the event was held in memory of Brig. Gen. Steve Cordon, a former Chief of Staff for the Connecticut Army National Guard who passed away last year after setting many Guardsmen on the competitive running trail.

The four-mile race, held on Sept. 10, benefit the American Cancer Society and the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

More than 70 runners, including many former and current Guardsmen, descended on the Norwalk Armory parking lot for the start of the race, which after being started by a blast from a howitzer, wound it's way through a flat, fast and scenic course. Runners from pre-teen to the over-60 crowd found the weather to be perfect for a race of this type.

Prizes were awarded in five male and female age groups and to the top three-person military team, with a pasta party following the race at the Norwalk Armory.



Dispatches from the Front

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SGT. JOSEPH C. DeCARO
65th PCH, EAGLE BASE



For locked-down service members looking for fun on a closed camp in Bosnia, entertainment is only two steps away.

A Texas Two-Step, that is, 'cause here on Eagle Base, every Sunday and Wednesday evening at Triggers is County Dance Night, pard'ner.

And little wonder, since the 49th Armored Division (49th AD) and the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment (3d ACR) deployed here are headquartered in Texas and Colorado, respectively.

But when the 10th Mountain Division ruled the roost on Eagle, Salsa and R&B were the staples at Triggers – until the Transfer of Authority (TOA) in March 1999 to the 49th AD. Then the Base began to take on a more country-style approach to entertainment.

"Once you get over the uniforms, it's all right," said Sgt. James K. Basham,

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 629th

MI, 49th AD, concerning country dancing without the jeans, cowboy hats and big belt buckles he was accustomed to seeing in Colorado Springs.

When he was stationed in Colorado with the 3d ACR, Basham said he was depressed after being divorced, so his friends took him country line dancing to get him out of the barracks.

"There's no chance of being rejected (because) there's no one to ask," said Basham on not having to find a partner to country line dance.

And the same goes for you here at Triggers every Sunday and Wednesday night – YEEE-HAAA.



DIVERSITY DIALOGUE

Hero Marine Colonel, Once Drop-out, Now Eyes. Ph.D.

American Forces Press

Submitted by:
SENIOR MASTER SGT. TONY PALLADINO,
HQ CTANG
STATE HUMAN RESOURCES ADVISOR

Silver Star recipient Marine Corps Col. Felipe Torres is not only a War hero; he's a hero in the Hispanic community and a role model for the youth of America.

When many other 17-year old students were preparing to graduate from high school in New York City, Torres had just finished the ninth grade. His grandmother hadn't allowed him to start school until he was 9—"I was 11 years old and in the second grade," the Puerto Rico native recalled. He then dropped out of school and followed his older brothers, Jose and Janero, into the military.

"Vietnam was picking up and I didn't want to stay out of the action, I felt an obligation to join just like my older brothers did," the youngest Torres said. Jose had joined the Air Force and Torres thought about following, but the lack of a high school diploma prevented that. He eventually joined the Marine Corps on his 17th birthday, July 13, 1966.

The one-time high school dropout is now the advisor to the Marine Corps Commandant on equal opportunity matters and head of the Personnel Equal Opportunity Branch at Quantico Marine Corps Base, Va. He also went back to school and now hopes to complete the requirements for his doctorate degree in administration and management.

Torres is featured in the book, "Khe Sanh-Seige in the Clouds" by Eric Hammel. His exploits during the 1968 Tet Offensive in South Vietnam earned him combat promotions to corporal and sergeant along

with the Silver Star for gallantry. Upon returning from Vietnam in 1970 he got his general equivalency diploma and eventually his high school diploma. He obtained his bachelor's degree with honors in 1985 in occupational education and his master's degree in management in 1991.



Education is his passion when he talks today to young Hispanics. He tells them they, too, can be successful if they complete high school and go on to college. "Education is one of the most critical factors for success—stay in school" is his message.

"The Hispanic statistics on school completion are dismal," he said. "It's a problem that affects all of us and all of us need to get involved in being a part of the solution, failure to me means not trying," Torres said. "I haven't failed until after I have given something my best shot over time and have come short of the mark. Nothing is out of reach. You are only limited by your imagination. The only limits I've known are those I placed on myself," said Torres.

Marine Corps Col. Felipe Torres was a high school dropout who turned his life around. He addresses mainly young Hispanic audiences, but his wisdom applies universally:

Encourage all those around you to complete high school and make a commitment to go to college

Never eliminate yourself from any competition

Always try to reach your goals, because not trying is one sure way of not getting something

You can accomplish anything if you are sincere in your pursuit and you invest the necessary energy toward achieving it

CLOSING THE BACK DOOR

By SENIOR MASTER SGT. BRIAN J. BAGLEY,
RECRUITING AND RETENTION SUPERINTENDANT,
HQ CTANG

As the end of Fiscal Year 2000 is close at hand we have overshot our expectations as a result of all of the hard work and dedication of all of the members of the Air National Guard. The loss figures at both the 103rd Fighter Wing and 103rd Air Control Squadron were far less than previous years and we achieved close to an eight percent total loss rate. This significant figure means we maintained almost 92 percent of our workforce. This, aided by the outstanding recruiting effort that pushed us into the net gain (Accessions over Losses) exceeding 20. We increased our advertising campaign with the increase of national advertising monies. We placed several ads in many local papers, radio and expanded our targeted appeal to the Hispanic community with television ads in Spanish as well as brochures tailored to the Hispanic community.

Looking at the contributions of all individuals of the Air National Guard has truly been significant. If it weren't for ALL members telling their story to friends, relatives or anyone who would listen, we would not be as successful as we are today. This effort was clearly evident when our Recruiting and Retention Team was recognized with the Regional Team Spirit award last year. Our team is comprised of Master Sgt. Anthony DeAngelis, Master Sgt. Harold Rogers, Master Sgt. Julie Janes, Tech. Sgt. Jim Minneo and Tech. Sgt. Ivan Anglero. On an individual basis, Anglero was selected as the Regional Recruiter of the Year and Rogers was selected as the Regional Recruiting and Retention NCO. Each of these accomplishments are significant and these individuals should be commended for their team efforts and dedication. We have continued this streak and have been recognized for our quarterly production rates a couple of times this year.

Safe GUARDing Connecticut's Future

By MAJ. CHUCK STRONG,
DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION ADMINISTRATOR

ECSTASY:

What Parents should know

Methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA); Slang or Street Names: Ecstasy, XTC, X, Adam, Clarity, Lover's Speed, Essence

MDMA has a chemical structure similar to the stimulant methamphetamine and the hallucinogen mescaline and can produce both stimulant and psychedelic effects. Its use has escalated in the 1990s among college students and young adults and more recently in 8th through 12th grades, particularly those that participate in all-night dance parties called "Raves."

MDMA is taken orally, usually in a tablet or a capsule form. MDMA's effects last approximately 3 to 6 hours, though confusion, depression, sleep problems, anxiety, and paranoia have been reported to occur even weeks after the drug is taken.

MDMA can produce a significant increase in heart rate and blood pressure and a sense of alertness like that associated with amphetamine use.

The stimulant effects of MDMA, which enable users to dance for extended periods, may also lead to dehydration, hypertension, and heart or kidney failure.

MDMA is extremely dangerous in high doses. It causes a marked increase in body temperature (malignant hypothermia) leading to the muscle breakdown and kidney and cardiovascular system failure reported in some fatal cases at Raves. MDMA use may also lead to heart attacks, strokes, and seizures in some users.

MDMA is neurotoxic. Chronic use of MDMA was found, first in laboratory animals and more recently in humans, to produce long-lasting, perhaps permanent, damage to the neurons that release serotonin, and consequent memory impairment.

*MDMA use has been reported across the country including use here in Connecticut. Its popularity is usually found among young people who attend all night dance parties also known as "Rave parties". Parents should be aware and monitor their children's nighttime activities. Listed below are startling results from the "Monitoring the Future Study" about our adolescents.

Ecstasy Use by Students, 1999: Monitoring the Future Study

"Ever used" refers to use at least once during a respondent's lifetime. "Past year" refers to an individual's drug use at least

once during the year preceding their response to the survey. "Past month" refers to an individual's drug use at least once during the month preceding their response to the survey.



General Barry McCaffrey Announces Plan Against Ecstasy.

"Office of National Drug Control (ONDCP) Director Barry R. McCaffrey announced that ONDCP will launch a targeted advertising and public communications effort against MDMA. Beginning in mid-August, ONDCP's National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign will launch a \$5 million nationwide radio and Internet advertising initiative focused specifically against Ecstasy use.

McCaffrey said the initiative is designed to educate people about the dangers of Ecstasy and change the misperceptions that it is a harmless drug.

"These drugs are gaining enormous popularity among young people primarily due to the false perception that they are not as harmful, nor as addictive, as mainstream drugs such as heroin and crack cocaine," said McCaffrey. "But this is not a benign drug as some people believe. It is a powerful and destructive substance that can wreck mind and body and we are seeing a problem unfold that is producing tragic consequences."

Ecstasy is quickly becoming a worldwide problem because of its growing popularity and because more unscrupulous people, including organized crime syndicates. Many parts of the world have seen how lucrative dealing Ecstasy can be. The United States and Western Europe are flooded with Ecstasy and that other countries, such as East Asia, are beginning to feel its growing presence.

The media campaign radio advertisements will target young people and their parents in 106 radio markets across the United States. Internet banner advertisements about Ecstasy will be placed on Web sites heavily visited by young people and on sites favored by adults. ONDCP will also purchase key words such as "Ecstasy," "MDMA," and "club drugs" on Internet search engines. When users search these words, one of the media campaign's Ecstasy banners will appear in the advertising section of the screen encouraging visitors to get more information about Ecstasy at the campaign's primary Web sites: www.theantidrug.com for adults and www.freevibe.com for youth.

"We need to focus on educating young people and offering them healthy alternatives," said McCaffrey.

Space A Benefits Available for Guardsmen

By SENIOR AIRMAN JULIE BRAGG
103rd FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST

Among the many benefits the military has to offer its members is the option to travel using Space A (space available) on Department of Defense (DoD) owned or controlled aircraft. Priority for this benefit is decided by categories. Guardsmen fit into category 6 and are considered reserve component members. With a DD Form 2 (red identification card) and a DD Form 1853, Guardsmen may fly to, from, and between Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the within the CONUS (Continental United States). Guard members may fly anywhere overseas that Air Mobility Command (AMC) has flights operating under the following conditions: after serving at least 30 consecutive active duty days, and while on leave status. As a retiree, you may also fly anywhere AMC has flights operating, including the CONUS.

Many of the 103rd Flying Yankees took hops during the 80's. According to Chief Master Sgt. Doreen Bassingthwaite, 103rd Medical

Squadron, "Many of the medics used to fly to Florida almost every weekend to go to the beach."

Maj. Robert Statchen, 103rd Fighter Wing, took advantage of Space A once when he was in Air Force ROTC in college. He and some friends went to Andrews Air Force Base (AFB) and had planned a trip Puerto Rico, but, "...a bunch of academy people showed up and they trumped us. So, we went over to the Navy base and took a hop to Bermuda. We spent five days there."

Master Sgt. Kristine Toro, Headquarters Connecticut Air National Guard, took hops to New Mexico and Florida. "I waited a really long time and got bumped on my way back from Florida. But, I eventually got there and had a good time."

Master Sgt. Bob Maloney, 103rd Maintenance Squadron, recalled his experience flying Space A from Oklahoma City to California on a Navy flight. "At first, they wouldn't let me on because I wasn't in uniform." He was eventually allowed to board the aircraft and made it to his

destination successfully. The uniform policy has recently changed. According to the Air Mobility Command website, "Each Service determines their own travel uniform policies. Currently, all the services permit appropriate civilian attire on DoD-owned or controlled aircraft."

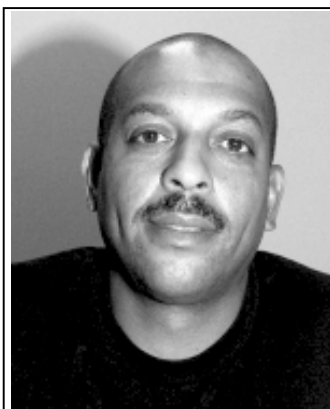
Traveling Space A isn't simple. There is some planning that is involved. Many people have had headaches traveling Space A, but those who are flexible and plan carefully can have a positive and enjoyable experience.

Master Sgt. Brian Reed, 103rd Security Forces Squadron, took several hops while he was serving active duty with the Air Force. When he was stationed in Korea, Reed took several trips to Misawa and Okinawa, Japan and to the Philippines. During his PCS to Eglin AFB, Florida, Reed took leave and traveled to Guam, Hawaii, San Francisco, and St. Louis. "I had no difficulties whatsoever," said Reed. "The trick is to go to a hub first, places that have high volume of flights. Once you get into a hub, anywhere else is easy to get into."

According to Capt. Charlene Purtee, passenger operations, HQ AMC, Scott AFB, "The key to flying Space A is flexibility. You have to have a certain mind set. If you plan on having a certain date of departure and a certain route to your location, you might have a bad experience. However, if you allow for delays and opt to take an indirect route, you'll probably have a more successful trip." She believes that one reason Space A has gotten to be more successful for travelers in recent years is due to the increase in accessibility of information. A complete informational web site including contact information for all terminals can be found at www.http://public.scott.af.mil/hqamc/. The website contains a lot of helpful information including tips on traveling to make your experience as simple as possible and a complete list of telephone numbers and addresses to all of the AMC terminals. The most important tip is to always be prepared to purchase onward or return commercial transportation, meals, and lodging.



"Make sure you check in with the terminal daily to make sure the aircraft is still flying to your destination." —Master Sgt. Bob Maloney, 103rd Maintenance Squadron.



"It's the way to go. It's one benefit we have ... you have to be smart though, ask questions and do your homework." —Master Sgt. Brian Reed, 103rd Security Forces Squadron.



"We've had a lot of people fly Space A on our flights, especially when we've gone overseas." —Capt. Roy Walton, 103rd Logistics Group.



"The flights aren't bad. It was cheap — ten bucks!" —Tech. Sgt. Kevin Peak, 103rd Civil Engineering Squadron.

Red Ribbon Week Kick-Off Planned

In 1985, DEA agent Kiki Camarena was murdered by the drug cartel in Mexico. To honor his memory, and to show that they would continue his fight against illegal drugs, friends and neighbors began wearing red ribbons. Parents across the country were getting more and more concerned about their children and drugs and began asking questions, getting answers and getting organized.

Taking Kiki Camarena as their model, this grassroots organization grew into the National Family Partnership, a network of community coalitions united under one mission: to promote healthy, drug-free youth through prevention and education.

Red Ribbon Week is only one aspect of this battle against illegal drugs.

On Monday, Oct. 23 at 11 a.m. at the North Portico of the State Capitol building, the Drug Demand Reduction section of the Connecticut National Guard will help kick-off Red Ribbon Week along with several state senators and mayors, the governor, regional representatives from the Drug Enforcement Administration and local agencies such as the Capitol Area Substance Abuse Council. About 400 youth from area schools will also participate.

This kick-off is open to the public and your attendance and support is encouraged.

Security Badge Wear

The wearing of security identification badges is the first step in making the Hartford Armory more secure.

State employees of the armory already have their badges and the federal employees are in the process of getting theirs.

All visitors to the Hartford Armory will need to enter the main doors at the front center of the building and sign in with the security guards. All daily employees are required to wear their badges at all times.

M-Day soldiers who are making up a drill or who are on Year Round Training or ADSW status will also need to sign in at the security desk. As soon as plans are finalized for M-Day soldiers drilling on weekends, a notice will be placed in the company newsletters and in the Connecticut Guardian.

Any federal employee who has not had their photo taken for their security badge is to call Katherine Leavitt at 548-3257 to set up an appointment.

NGACT Holds Golf Tournament

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SGT. 1ST CLASS DEBBI NEWTON,
STATE SENIOR PA NCO

On a bright, sunny morning in September, 144 golfers and a dozen volunteers descended on Keney Golf Course in Hartford with clubs in hand. But this was not just an excuse for fun and a day off. The golfers were also here to raise funds for the Connecticut Children's Hospital and the National Guard Association of Connecticut's Scholarship Fund. And while trophies were given out to the low scorers, and raffle prizes were presented to the lucky ticket holders, the real winners were the charities, picking up over \$8,000 between them.

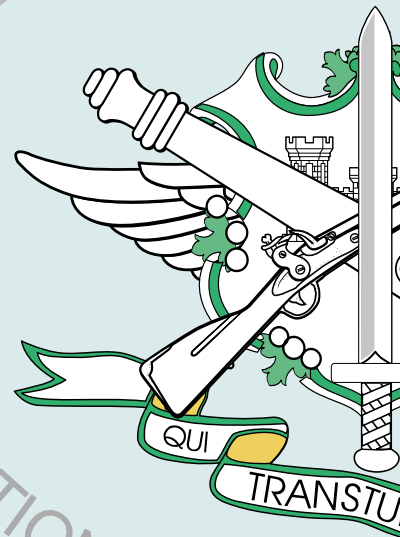
Tournament organizer John Godburn was very pleased with the outcome of the third annual tournament.

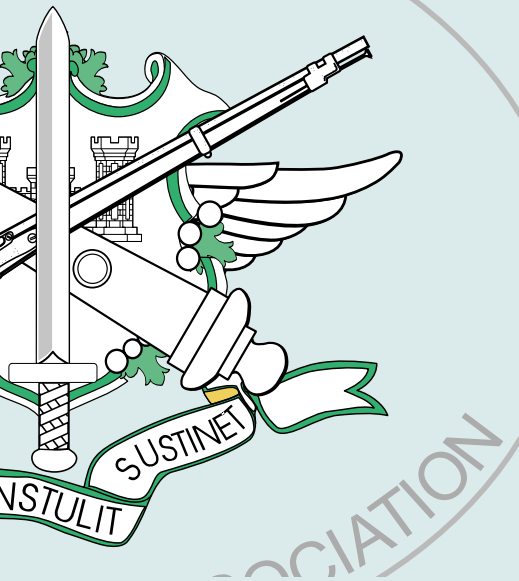
"We certainly had a beautiful day, and a great turnout," said Godburn. "Corporate sponsorship and the many donated raffle prizes certainly helped us achieve our goals of being able to present sizeable checks to the Children's Hospital and the scholarship fund. We couldn't have done any of it, though, without the golfers and volunteers. A special thank you to Kim Hoffman and the Family Program for their donations of food and time. They did a wonderful job."

As the golfers arrived and checked in, they were treated to a continental breakfast. Once everyone had arrived, it was into the golf carts for the "scramble" start. The carts were lined up and peeled off to their starting tees looking like a well-choreographed driving stunt. Then it was up to the golfers to make it happen.

Scores on the par-70 course ranged from a low of 62 to a high of 74 over the 18 holes. Golfers stopped by the clubhouse for a complimentary lunch, hoped to sink a hole-in-one off the tees that had shiny new cars waiting for the lucky golfer to claim the keys (it didn't happen), and came in to the clubhouse area for refreshments at the end of the day. Once everyone had finished play, dinner was served, trophies were handed out, including new set of plastic clubs for the foursome needing the most improvement, and raffle prizes were drawn.

As the sun began to go down over the tee behind the clubhouse, golfers and volunteers were making plans to return next year to once again have fun and raise funds to benefit two worthy charities.





Bradley Air Cadet Day a Hit With Kids

By CAPT. GEORGE H. WORRALL
103rd FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

This is the second year 103rd Fighter Wing family members were able to participate in a program hosted by the Connecticut Guard's Drug Demand Reduction Program (DDRP).

Forty Guard family members came up to the base for Bradley Air Cadet Day. Parents and counselors escorted the children through a tour of the base and demonstrations of aircraft and fire-fighting equipment. The children were also treated to a short bus trip to see the Army National Guard helicopters.

"They [the kids] get to see what we do," said Tech. Sgt. Vincent J. Barnes, Integrated Electronics Technician, Avionics, who brought his son Vinnie, nine.

"It's the first time my son has seen anything like this with the anti-drug theme. It's good for him to get this (anti-drug message) now, at his age."

The Bradley Air Cadet Program is a structured, one-day aviation-related drug awareness program for at-risk children in grades four through six. Its purpose is to create an understanding that DRUG USE IS LIFE ABUSE.

In the program, youth are exposed to work environments and career opportunities that are only available to people who are drug free. Specific careers are not emphasized, but rather the emphasis is that there is an abundance of choices for those that don't use drugs.

"It is great," said Chief Master Sgt. Patrick L. Wheeler. "The program creates good awareness for those kids to see their options if they don't use drugs." He brought his son Kyle, nine, and daughter Kaitlin, 11.

This year, the DDRP hosted sixteen Bradley Air Cadet Days, according to Senior Airman Joanna M. Galli, in her second year as camp administrator. Other groups that visited this summer were students from the Avon DARE office, Berkshire Community College in Pittsfield Mass., East Granby Parks and Recreation, Granby Town Complex, Salmon Brook Day Camp in Granby, Boys and Girls Club of

Hartford and the Waterbury Parks and Recreation summer programs.

Although for some visitors this was a new experience, others saw it as a complimentary to other programs. "The drug demand reduction program is outstanding," said Tech. Sgt. Frank Gonzalez, Integrated Electronics Technician in avionics who brought his son Frankie, 13. "My son went to DARE in school; but this was a tremendous opportunity," said Gonzalez.

Not counting the season finale of Guard member's children, 480 children came through the program this year according to Senior Airman Napoleon A. Tetreault III, a security specialist with the 103rd Security Forces Squadron, in his third year with the camp. "I enjoy the work environment, team spirit and most of all working with the kids," Tetreault is not certain if he will return to the camp next year after completing his degree in criminology at Central Connecticut State University (CCSU).

Senior Airman Joanna M. Galli, a supply specialist with the 103rd Logistics Squadron and social work major at CCSU likes that she gets to see the whole operation of the air base and the Army Aviation Support Facility (AASF). "Every tour I hear something new about the planes or bombs. I think it is a great

opportunity for the kids, they can see something different from the same day at their camps, and it is free," said Galli.

Galli particularly appreciates the support the base agencies give when they bring a group through. "The people here share a lot with the kids about what they do. They don't have too, they just do."

What do the children think of the program?

"It's cool. I liked going in the helicopter and airplane, the cool movie, the fire truck and the police [demonstration]," said Jimmy Jr. who attended with his sister Ashley and their father, Lt. James J. Guerrero Sr., an employee relations specialist with the Human Resources office.

The day began with an overview of the day's activities. A pilot then explained flying the A-10 and showed flying equipment by dressing up a youth volunteer. The cadets got a tour of an A-10 and a

chance to sit in the cockpit. They saw a weapons display and took a tour of the base firehouse, including the business side of the hose. A picnic lunch and group photo was followed by a trip to the AASF on the other side of the airport. Here they were given a tour of the army facilities and helicopters. Throughout the tour, the emphasis was on remaining drug free.



Tiffany Whited (left), daughter of Tech. Sgt. Randy Whited, and Morgan Desroche, daughter of Staff Sgt. Cheryl Desroche, take a lunch break. (Photo by Senior Airman Julie Bragg)



Each of us makes a difference. It is from numberless acts of courage and belief that human history is shaped.

Robert F. Kennedy



Nicholas Whited, son of Tech. Sgt. Randy Whited, enjoys his turn in the cockpit as Master Sgt. James Shewokis shows him the workings. Michael Boutin (right) awaits his turn in the seat. (Photo by Senior Airman Julie Bragg)

BTOC

Capt. Scott Wilson, Assistant State Public Affairs Officer, recently had the opportunity to spend some time with members of a Basic Training Orientation Course at Camp Rowland. While there, he asked three questions of the newly enlisted soldiers who were receiving some preliminary training prior to leaving for Basic Training. The questions and their answers follow.

Questions:

- A - Why did you join the Connecticut Army National Guard?
 B - What do you expect to get out of the program?
 C - What do you hope to be able to give back?



Charles E. Giovannucci
 Southington, CT

A - I wanted the tuition assistance, so I looked into the program, and it seemed like a good move. It will help me get through college. I also look forward to learning new things.

B - I hope to increase my self-esteem, and learn how to handle tough situations.

C - I want to be able to help those who need it, and help out our base (engineer).

Great things are not done by impulse but by a series of small things brought together.

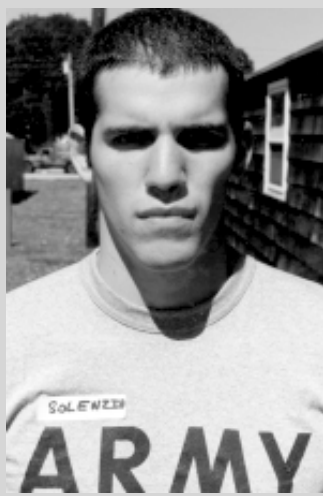
Vincent van Gogh

Craig M. Solenzio
 Andover, CT

A - Money for college.

B - I want to learn the skills to be a good carpenter.

C - I'll work hard and accomplish the missions I'm given.

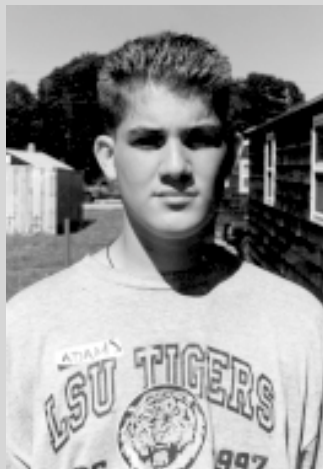


Leonard J. Adams
 West Haven, CT

A - I want to get the discipline and money to get through school.

B - I think I will gain more respect for soldiers on active duty, I'll increase my personal discipline, and I'll have fun.

C - I will give back my time and my expertise in what I learn. I also hope to be able to support others and develop friendships with fellow soldiers



Holly E. Garland, age 18
 West Hartford, CT

A - I want to get money for school, a car, and benefits for my kids. I also believe it will help me get a better job in the future.

B - see above

C - I want to give back by serving as an example of others so that they can see the benefits and join.



Kelly M. Phillips, 18
 New Hartford, CT

A - I wanted to do something for myself and do something for others at the same time.

B - I want to gain discipline, and a better career in nursing.

C - Nursing itself means that I'll be caring for others, so I hope to give back through that. I also hope to give back just through service to the country.

Benjamin A. Milewski, 18
 Norwich, CT

A - I want to serve my country - I believe in fighting for our freedom, and I'm proud of my country and proud of those who went before me. I have a military service history in my family. I also wanted the tuition waiver.

B - I want to get a college education. I want to become an officer - I want to be a leader.

C - I will give back by leading others and helping them.



Wendy L. Ortiz, 21
 Hartford, CT

A - JROTC sparked my interest. I always wanted to be in the Army. I saw the "Be all you can be" ads on television and thought, "I want to be one of them."

B - I hope to fulfill my dream of being in the Army.

C - Help others in their time of need.



Civilian and Military Family Join in Baptism

By Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton

The sun was shining brightly on the Bristol Armory on a Saturday morning in September. There was an odd mix of battle dress uniforms and civilians in their Sunday best, standing around a small table with a World War II steel helmet sitting on top. They had all come together to share in something very unique in this, the Year of the Family.

First Lt. Stefan Sanchez and his wife Jessica don't even remember a conscious decision to bring this odd mix of people together, they just knew. They had been married by an Army chaplain and this was the next logical step.

They would have their 16-month son, Evan, baptized by an Army National Guard chaplain, and they would share it not only with their family, but with their military family as well.

"I've been in the Guard for 13 years as an enlisted member and an officer," said Sanchez, a member of Company C, 1st Battalion, 102nd Infantry in Bristol. "It's (the Guard) like a second family to me. I enlisted when I was 17 years old and was a child of divorce. Many of the senior NCOs and some of the officers were like father figures to me. Now I'm slowly shifting into the dad position myself. This was just the most natural thing to do."

Chaplain (2nd Lt.) Robert Gresser, the battalion chaplain, officiated at the service, held on the drill shed floor of the Bristol Armory right after first formation.

According to Sanchez, his unit chain of command was very supportive of the novel idea. Lt. Col. Thomas Stefanko, the 1st Battalion, 102nd Infantry commander said this event was definitely a first for him. And Capt. John Denault, commander of Company C swelled with pride as he talked about what special moment this had been for his company.

"I've never had the opportunity to share in something like this," he told his soldiers afterward. "This type of caring about and for each other is what makes you number one. You know that the first thing that counts is you as a man, a husband, a father, a boyfriend."

And while his wife, child and family were off celebrating the baptism, what was Sanchez doing? What any military father figure would be doing...getting his soldiers ready to head to the East Haven Rifle Range for weapons qualification. Every family has its moments of responsibility.



ESGR

By Lt. Col. (Ret)
Harry Ritson
ESGR Public Affairs

Not many individuals are aware that during the very successful Desert Shield and Desert Storm Operations in 1991 over 260,000 Guard and Reserve personnel were necessary to round out the committed Active Forces to provide the required force components to wage and win that conflict. Over 140,000 served "in country" including several units from Connecticut.

Since then the Active Military has been reduced 50 percent and over \$700,000,000. has been purged from military procurement funds to produce the current "Peace Dividend". The Air Force has been reduced from 35 to 20 Wings and often must depend on Air Guard and Reserve Units to assume wartime type missions whenever and Active Squadron is pulled down for training or maintenance. The planned 600 ship Navy stands at just over 315 and many are put to sea with sailors fresh from boot camp, without advanced training because of personnel shortages. The other Active Services are in a similar situation.

As a result, over 54 percent of all ongoing military missions have been assigned to

Just How Important are the National Guard and Reserves

National Guard of Reserve Component units and, while currently stabilized, the percentage could rise. The Kosovo Command will shortly be transferred from Active Control to a Federalized National Guard Headquarters from Texas- if that is not a "first", it certainly is unprecedented in recent history. National Guard Units from Connecticut have already been notified of their deployment in support of this operation.

Eighty-five percent of out Total Force Military Sealift Command personnel are Naval Reservists and over 50 percent of our strategic airlift crews are found in the Air Guard and Air Reserve. Three of the 11 Marine Corps infantry regiments are in the Reserve, and 100 percent of the deployable port security units are in the Coast Guard Reserve. Between 80 percent and 100 percent of our capabilities in Medical, Civil Affairs, Ground Transportation, Air Interception, Air Refueling and Prisoner of War companies are also in the Guard or Reserve. Secretary of Defense Cohen recently stated that the Active Forces cannot be deployed without substantial involvement of activated Guard and Reserve Units - certainly a summary statement on our current military status and posture.

So, "How Important are the National Guards and Reserves?" Very, in fact essential! With the Active drawdown, the lack of Active recruiting success, the 300 percent increase in optempo, the number of experienced, seemingly "career" personnel leaving the Services because of constant deployments and the lure of civilian salaries, there is no question of the essential and growing contribution the National Guard and Reserve Components makes to out National Defense.

The Guard and Reserve have become the bastion of not only trained and dedicated personnel, but there is a growing dependance on their matured military skills, their maintained equipment and their demonstrated willingness to serve and protect their Country. The Connecticut Committee, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, recognizes and salutes these proud Americans who are members of the National Guard and Reserve Components. We also salute their employers who are supportive of their employee's participation, and stand ready to help, educate or meditate any employment questions of situation. A call to (860) 283-4222 will initiate our help. We consider it an honor to be of service.

Disability Employment Awareness

By Col. Anthony Vallobrosio

We sometimes lose our perspective living in an environment that requires strict physical standards for membership and rigid physical conditioning to maintain at least a minimum qualification for retention. The fact that the nature of our military mission discriminates against those with physical disabilities is unavoidable, but it does not mean that it fosters an insensitivity toward people that are faced with extraordinary challenges. Isn't this really a part of what we call diversity?

We know that we become stronger as a result of each challenge we face and that we can overcome almost any obstacle once we know what it is and learn how to regain control of the situation. For many, the obstacle is a physical condition that limits them from doing something that would otherwise be routine. Have you ever covered your eyes and tried to walk around or tried to write without using your dominant hand? How far did you get?

For a short time I was commuting via mass transit and while walking to the bus

stop I met a blind person walking to the same corner. I asked if I could assist him and he responded with a pleasant "yes". We walked together for about two blocks and in that short distance I found that he was totally blind and had been so since birth. I was amazed that he could do something as routine, but complex, as walking the streets of Hartford without seeing where he was going. I spoke freely of my reaction and he assured me that he could "see" as well as I could, but in a different way.

What he was able to do came with much practice, but he overcame an obstacle because he was able to take control of his situation. Whether by accident or illness, many people find themselves facing the challenge of their lives. Many react with a sort of defiance and an overwhelming faith that gives them the capacity to overcome the situation.

Several years ago, my aunt was severely injured in a parking lot when a careless driver ran into her, pinning her between two cars. It resulted in her losing her right leg and facing a traumatic road to recovery. In a relatively short period however, this 92-year-old woman overcame a major obstacle in her life and regained her ability to walk

with the help of a prosthesis and the love and understanding of her family.

I think the bottom line is that we are all people and should respect each other as such, regardless of our physical or mental differences. In fact, if we are truly to value diversity, we must first recognize, respect and value them because of their differences. Don't shy away from someone who is different. If they cannot communicate with words, learn how to sign "good-morning" or "hello". Learn how to advise someone with a disability that is trying to find employment with our state or federal government where to go for advice. Find out about the Americans with Disabilities Act and what it does for people.

If you have a question regarding persons with disabilities and current laws that protect them, give us a call. If we don't have an answer, we will certainly get one for you. If you have an expertise in this area, let us know. In the meantime, log onto one of these websites: www.pub.whitehouse.gov for research information, or www.usdoj.gov for information on Americans with Disabilities Act, or www.opm.gov/disability/index.htm for the latest news about people with disabilities.

1,800 Miles in Two Weeks

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CAPT. KIM ROLSTONE,
192ND ENGINEER BATTALION

It was the military version of "Survivor" or "Big Brother": nine soldiers from three nations traveling the length and breadth of the UK in a mini-bus.... constantly in each other's company, all bound to do the same things, but with no provision to vote any one off the bus! Two weeks and 1800 miles of driving resulted in a group of strangers who got to know each other pretty well, and an uncommon opportunity to share and learn military and cultural things between us.

result was switching a few days around and using the train into London for some of the travel. Larmett must have spent a fortune on cell phone calls trying to modify our schedule and to arrange for fuel from military posts in preparation for our 550-mile drive to Scotland. He pulled it off!

Some notable trips were the visit to the British Army Combat Engineer training school and the School of Military Engineering (SME) in Southwest England. I was more than impressed by the facilities for training combat engineers and bridge crewmembers. Of note too, were the trades

observed their training. This particular unit was also an EOD unit and it was interesting to learn about their techniques for rendering unexploded ordnance "safe".

We do not really have similar units that function like this British company does. They are used primarily in operational areas to work on mines, bombs etc. A good example given to us by one of the soldiers was where their unit would need to work on unexploded bombs dropped on an aircraft runway. Their goal would be to defuse the bomb so as not to do any more damage to the runway than was already done. At the end of the evening we were treated to a curry dinner and enjoyed some beer with the troops, while we exchanged conversation.

The average TA soldier needs to attend drill every Tuesday evening and attend at least one weekend a month, but it is not uncommon for the units to have some kind of drill every weekend of the month. These drills are generally not attended by all soldiers every time. There are a few reasons for this: Much of the soldier skill training is done in modules, and these modules may be one night, one weekend or a two-week bloc. Therefore many soldiers are completing separate modules much of the time, and the units do not always have the same "bulk" drill attendance that we do. Soldiers generally do not go away for the long basic and AIT phases that we do; instead they have this training broken into the modules. There are a few weekend drills that are mandatory for all to attend throughout the year, and of course the two week AT period. Soldiers who are doing module training somewhere else also affect the AT.

The additional reason for so many drill "opportunities" is the bounty (bonus) that the TA pays its soldiers for meeting certain minimum modules and training activities. Generally the yearly bounty of one thousand pounds (\$1500.00) is paid to the soldiers who complete all the required training and modules. Those who choose to do the minimum, do not qualify for the bounty. The British TA soldier seems to be motivated by a sense of duty, a desire to do some fun, and interesting work, and the promise of such extra pay. Not much

different from our own, yet the TA soldiers do not receive pensions for this service, and some of the British laws to protect TA soldiers in their civilian employment seem to be weak and do not offer the same protection that our laws offer Guard members.

We then set off by road to Scotland on a nine hour drive to Stirling to join the Regiment at their



Vehicle mechanic training booth at Chatham.

AT. The Regiment had subordinate units approximately 40 miles to the east and the west, with the centralized command and supply at Stirling, a World War II era camp with Quonset huts. The Regiment conducted a Bosnian scenario whereby they were providing engineer assistance to the region. This included maintaining supply routes, and constructing bridges and huts. In reality the bridge and huts were for the Forestry service, so there was a tangible aspect to the training. Despite cold and rain, the British sappers worked hard and displayed good morale throughout. One bridge site was located about 800 meters from the nearest road, and all supplies were hand carried down the site. This included the five five-meter I-beams, all decking and supplies. Two abutments were to be emplaced, and the mixed concrete was carried down in rucksacks from the top of the hill! Quite a feat.

During our stay in Scotland we were given the opportunity to go onboard a Trident Nuclear submarine. This particular vessel was on jacks out of the water, but inside a gigantic shed. An elevator took us up four floors to the catwalk and we descended into the sub for a tour. It was an astounding experience, and gave me a different insight into the lives of submariners.

Finally, we returned to the London area and started preparing for our return home. I was faced with the usual problem of too many items to pack, and not enough space, but I did cram it all in, and returned home to my wife and four children. The kids seemed more interested in the prospect of gifts than seeing their dad, but that was short-lived.



View of London from the London Eye

The two weeks I spent in the United Kingdom on the Engineer officer exchange were a busy and very interesting period. On the heels of Capt. Mark Grey's visit from the 75th Engineer Regiment, British Territorial Army (TA) in August 2000, I formed part of a seven person group that visited his Regiment from Sept. 15 to Sept. 23, 2000. Our group was comprised of two US captains, two US NCOs, a Slovenian major, first lieutenant, and sergeant. Our hosts (Maj. Eric Larmett and Sgt. Andrew Simpson of the 75th Eng. Reg.) picked us up at Heathrow Airport, and our group spent the next two weeks touring British Army Engineer schools and bases, as well as joining their Regiment on their AT in Scotland.

As usual, a comprehensive itinerary had been worked out, and by means of phone calls and emails to and from my host, I had a good idea of what the next two weeks held in store. It was on day three of the trip - while we were still in southern England - that the schedule became subject to frequent change. The reason for this was the fuel refinery blockade conducted by truckers and farmers to demonstrate against the high gasoline prices (approximately \$4.00 per gallon). No doubt a legitimate gripe, but it effectively shut down most gas stations in the country and curtailed our traveling. The

training facilities. Army electricians, plumbers, carpenters, masons and the like are all trained at the SME. By agreement with the civilian tradesmen authorities, the army tradesmen's qualifications are recognized in the civilian sector, so a soldier completing a service commitment as a plumber can enter the civilian workforce as a qualified civilian plumber. Larmett commented to me that this made the most sense since it was taxpayer money being well spent. It was obvious to me that the training facility was very well run.

We arrived with little advance warning for our visit and we certainly were not given a show by anyone. What we saw was the normal training activities.

We also visited the Explosive Ordnance Demolition (EOD) facility at Lodge Hill. Here all the EOD specialists are trained and there is a wide range of cooperation on site with Navy, Air Force, and Police services for joint training. The UK still has its fair share of unexploded bombs dating back to World War II, and the ongoing terrorist threat from the IRA requires a quality EOD program. Their personnel are skilled -and very brave- and need to be familiar with thousands of types of explosives and ordnance.

Later in the evening we visited a Territorial Army Center (armory) in London and



The bridge at Gaerolchhead. All components were hand carried down a hill for 800m.

National Guard Association of Connecticut Charts Progress at National Conference

By SENIOR MASTER SGT. TONY PALLADINO,
PRESIDENT-ELECT, NGACT

Several members of the National Guard Association of Connecticut (NGACT), represented our state at the 29th Annual Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) Conference in North Dakota. Also attending, were the Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno, and Command Chief Master Sergeant Joseph E. King.

During the August conference in Bismarck, the EANGUS resolution committee considered 43 recommendations, with 25 presented and passed by the 29th General Session. The measures enacted include legislation to equalize the flight incentive entitlement for all air crew personnel of the US military forces, including Guard and Reserve; establish protection for students called up to serve in support of federal missions; proposed elimination of Controlled Grade Promotion Restrictions; and establishment of an immediate annuity retirement system for Guard and Reserve members upon obtaining 20 years of credited service.

Additional resolutions include increasing the annual limit on days of inactive duty training creditable toward reserve retirement and convincing national legislators to

encourage tax incentives for employers of Reserve Component members.

EANGUS is also urging Congress to provide adequate funding and statutory authority to establish a floor strength at 23,500 Active Guard and Reserve (AGR) members, and a federal Technician end strength of 25,500 in FY 2001. Full-time support personnel funding has decreased since 1996, while AGR and Technician resources continually stretch thin in meeting increasing operational and maintenance requirements. Association members feel strongly that "this critical shortfall must be addressed now to prevent further degradation of operational readiness", according to Delano Kerby, National EANGUS President.

Other initiatives include a By Laws adoption of the Junior Enlisted Council as a standing committee of EANGUS. The proposed Junior Enlisted Council was created and spear headed by Specialist Mandy Van Pelt of the New York Army National Guards 142nd Aviation Bde, Islip, Long Island. This initiative will provide for a voice for all junior enlisted members of the Army and Air National Guard.

Other highlights of the conference include the election of national and regional representatives. EANGUS President Delano Kerby, and Vice President Terry Dell were re-elected to serve another 2 years in their respective positions. Robert Rawlinson, past Area 1 Director and Maine National Guard member, was elected to the Treasurer position. Rawlinson has a background in accounting and was serving on the EANGUS Finance Committee. Master Sergeant John Helbert, Massachusetts Army National Guard was elected to the EANGUS Executive Board and will represent Connecticut, as well as other Region 1 states.

EANGUS, conceived in 1970 by a group of senior enlisted National Guard soldiers, is dedicated to the principle of providing adequate national defense and promoting the status, welfare and professionalism of Guard members. With ever-growing demands being placed on today's Guard members, their families and employers, EANGUS is working to develop new and better ways to recruit and retain young soldiers and airmen. The Association is continually addressing issues such as military pay, commissary, retirement benefits and re-enforcing the full time force. For further information about EANGUS or the NGACT refer to their respective websites www.eangus.org or www.ngact.org.

Questions concerning membership in NGACT and EANGUS may be directed to the following NGACT Executive Council members:

You can also reach the NGACT at our office in the State Armory in Hartford at 860-247-5000. If no one is in the office, please leave a message on the answering machine and your call will be returned.

E-MAIL VIA THE WEB

Guardmembers from the Nutmeg State can check their Official Email while at home or at work if they have access to the World Wide Web (the Internet). Just follow these simple steps:

How to Access E-Mail from the Web

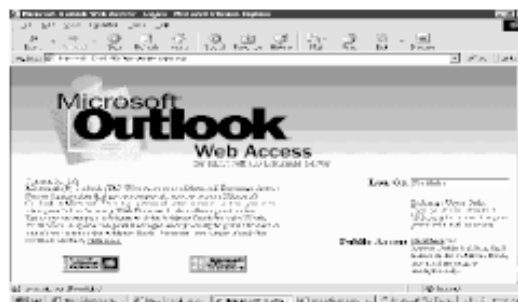
Step 1 – Type <http://www.ctnbg.army.mil/> in the browser to go to the CT Guard Homepage

*** Note. The website should look alike the picture below ***



Step 2 – From the website click on Email Web Access

*** Note. See picture above for reference. Also this will bring you to a login screen. ***



Step 3 - Type your login name (e.g. smithda)

*** Note. This should bring you to another login prompt ***

Step 4 – In the user box name type ct-arg/ your login name (e.g. ct-arg/smithda) In the password box type in your password

Step 5 – Enjoy your E-mail !

**Some users may have settings or software restrictions which still prevents them from getting in. Contact the DOIM Help Desk at helpdesk@ct.nbg.army.mil. Also, be advised your mail may not appear or function the same as your Outlook Mailbox on a Networked Workstation.



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

By CHAPLAIN
(LT. COL.) DAVID FEYER

In my thirty years in the military, one of the constants has been an institutional concern for people. Whether the programs were called character guidance, equal opportunity, concern for others, these programs have had, as their goal, the desire of our leadership to treat soldiers with care and respect, with the hope that this would in turn become part of the culture that is the United States Armed Forces.

I am proud to say that this care and concern for one another does indeed characterize our armed forces, in particular, it is very much exemplified in the Connecticut National Guard. The recently concluded Family Day at Camp Rowland, with the great participation from all members of the Guard, past and present, was a great reminder that people truly feel a part of an organization that cares.

It is important for us to remember that these values, this concern for our brothers and sisters in arms, is not something that comes naturally, it is something that we need to remember, to think about and to practice. Through this diligence we will pass on to yet another generation of committed citizen soldiers, these values that we treasure and that we been privileged to practice and uphold.

An Army Runs on its Stomach

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SGT. 1ST CLASS DEBBI NEWTON, STATE SENIOR PA NCO

How do you feed 400 officer candidates, staff and support personnel from eight states, in two dining facilities, over two weeks when you have no permanent cook staff? You borrow



cooks from other units. But other units have annual training (AT) to conduct, also, so you can only get one cook from here, and one cook from there. Bringing them together as a

cohesive team to get the job done well is the trick.

That's exactly what happened this past summer as the 169th Leadership Regiment brought cooks in from several units around the state to keep Officer Candidate Class 46 and its staff feed during annual training at Camp Rowland, Niantic.

Food Services Advisor, Chief Warrant Officer Michael Grenier was borrowed from the 85th Troop Command in New London, and his staff came from various units including the 712th Maintenance Company and 2nd Battalion, 126th Aviation Regiment.

"We brought in several additional cooks drawn from around the state to supplement the Regiment's regular drill staff," said Grenier. "We had a total of 15 cooks working one shift on, one shift off." A typical shift ran from 4 a.m. to 10 p.m.

But it wasn't the volume of people to feed and food to cook that made the AT interesting...it was how it all had to be done.

For one thing, most of the cooks had never worked together before. Teams had to be set up, people had to learn how to work together and adjustments to "how it has always been done" had to be made. Then there were the two dining facilities. With only seven or eight staff on a shift, supporting two dining halls came down to staffs of three or four people feeding around



200 soldiers each, three meals a day.

But the challenges did not end there. The cooks were using the kitchens and dining halls in the 800-series buildings for the first time. According to Dining Facilities Manager Sgt. 1st Class George Lavalley, this created some unique problems.



"The kitchens here (the 800-series) are much smaller than in the other dining facilities (the World War II wooden buildings) we are used to using," said Lavalley. "The newer kitchens have smaller, conventional ovens and the older buildings have the much larger, convection ovens that cook in much less time. We've been using the older buildings to cook the meats and then trucking them down here to feed the troops."

Grenier agreed that had been a problem this year. With the standard

ovens in the new buildings, the cooks would have had to start cooking the evening meats as early in the morning as possible and may not have had them all ready for the evening meal.

"The convection ovens in the older buildings hold more and cook in much less time than the conventional

ovens in the new buildings," he said. "Anything that has to be baked or broiled, we have to cook in the other buildings and bring down here. Anything that can be done on top of the stove, we can do here."

So now, the already small staff is split even further. But they still managed to get the job done. Every time students or staff showed up for their scheduled meal, there was the dining facility staff ready to serve the mountains of food they had prepared.



Then came the second week of AT, adding further splits to the crews. This was when the officer candidates and some of the support personnel moved to the field at Stone's Ranch



for a six-day Field Leadership Exercise (FLX). Now only one of the dining halls was kept open to feed the contonement staff, while the rest of the food was trucked out to the field to be served to the soldiers from MKTs (Mobile Kitchen Trailers). Of course, because it was a field environment, some of the meals were MREs (Meals Ready to Eat), but breakfast and dinner were hot meals every day, and the soldiers back at Camp Rowland still got three hot meals a day. So while there may have been less to cook, travel time added to the length of the day.

And due to some very unseasonably cold weather, couple with the high amounts of rainfall experienced during the FLX, the cooks weren't content to just provide three meals a day to the candidates. They made huge pots of hot soup and coffee to take to the field at night to help take the chill off the soldiers and staff.

Bringing together 15 soldiers from different units around the state is not easy. But these 15, knowing that the Army runs on its stomach, pulled together and got the job done. And they did it well.

Never tell people how to do things. Tell them what needs to be done and they will surprise you with their ingenuity.
George Patton



712th evaluated for Connelly Award

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SPC. MARIAN ROSADO,
65th PCH

The 712th Maintenance Company was evaluated on September 17 to determine their participation in the Phillip A. Connelly Award Program. This company is one of five competing in the northeast at the national level. If they make it, they will attend the national awards ceremony in Anaheim, CA.

To get this far into the competition the company had to simulate a tactical food service operation in Camp Hartell. It consisted of eight stations and a prepared meal, which was evaluated by three judges. The evaluation team reviewed each station, food preparation, sanitation, area of service, and other standards that needed to be met in order to make the national level.

"It took about a week and 20 people to get ready for this competition and about three days to set up for it," said Sgt. 1st Class Mark Pierce, the food operations sergeant. He is in charge of the productions schedule, the administration and food service paper work. Pierce is a resident of Mississippi who travels at his own expense to work with the members of 712th Maintenance Co. "I like the guys in the unit. We work well together and we have become close friends. It's a good unit with good cooks; it's hard to find good cooks."

It was a high-pressure event for the support staff as well as the cooks. Exact temperatures, proper procedures and safety

were enforced on the support personnel. The cooks were against time and the pressure of preparing their best meal was a challenge they had to overcome.

"I was worried about the cake. I'm not a baker but I'm getting through with a little more confidence," said Sgt. Ernest Arroyo, a cook in

"We all look for the same things, safety, sanitation process, cooking techniques, service, environment, set up, guidelines. I just look at it in a civilian stand point," said Linda Murphy, a Florida resident and a food service evaluator for the International Food Service Executives Association. Murphy



charge of preparing the banana filled layer cake and the main entrée, country style steak.

The purpose of this event is to recognize excellence in Army food service and to increase awareness of food service. "If you increase moral you will have a better unit," said Sgt. Maj. Vera F. Harris, one of the evaluators from Fort Lee, VA.

is dedicated to the profession of food service to make it the best it can be. "We look for military personnel because they are the best employees. They are self motivated and trained," said Murphy.

The unit received great reviews from evaluator Chief Edward Mose', an active duty servicemember from Fort Lee, who was impressed with the



command support. "This is a very good unit, they were courteous and had a great desire for what they were doing. These soldiers do it only one weekend a month; to have that desire is a good thing," said Mose'.

The winners and runners up will be notified in late December. They will attend the IFSEA conference and awards ceremony in March and will receive training in culinary arts in a prestigious college.



*a*ll work is as
seed sown: it
grows and
spreads and sows itself
anew.

Thomas Carlyle

RETIREE'S VOICE

The Connecticut National Guard, History Channel.com and AT&T Team Up To Link Local Vets Online At Veterans.com

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony held at Armory

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held at the Hartford Armory September 27, 2000 to help launch Veterans.com, an online community for veterans, active servicemen, family members, history and military buffs and students.

To commemorate the launch of Veterans.com, the History Channel and AT&T partnered to donate a computer and cable modem service to the Connecticut National Guard. A demonstration of how to use all the site's features was conducted during the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Veterans.com contains engaging features such as Eyewitness Accounts, where veterans share their experiences, Veteran-of-the-Month, and Veterans Locator, which reconnects veterans with comrades of the past. The site will also include discussion forums, an events calendar and resource links for veterans, family members and students.

This will help provide the first step in helping veterans to literally "get connected" to online communities and locate their fellow soldiers from their past.

"We're very excited to be participating in the launch of Veterans.com," said Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno, Connecticut's adjutant general and top Guard officer. "This is a way to bring the Internet to our veterans."

The keynote speaker for the ribbon cutting ceremony was Special Forces Command Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Ted Perry.

The computer will be permanently located at the National Guard Recruiting and Retention Office at 250 Farmington Avenue in Hartford.

If you or someone you know has changed addresses lately, or you know a retiree who is not receiving the

Connecticut Guardian, please contact Spc. Lisa Wackerman in the Chief of Staff's office with the

correction, addition or deletion. Her number is (860) 524-4903 or via e-mail at lisa.wackerman@ct.ngb.army.mil.

Red, White and Blue Mass, Nov. 5

The Diocese of Norwich is once again sponsoring a Red, White and Blue Mass as a religious tribute to the women and men of all faiths who serve or have served, the Nation as members of the uniformed services. This year's Mass will be held at 10:30 a.m., Sunday, Nov. 5 in the Cathedral of Saint Patrick, Norwich.

For nine years, the diocese has held these masses to celebrate key events marking our history. Past themes have included D-Day, Medal of Honor recipients and Women in the Military. This year, the Mass will celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the U.S. Submarine Force.

All members of the service are invited to attend this very special Mass

Warthog 2nd Annual Haunted Hayride

Friday Oct. 20, 7-10p.m., and Saturday Oct. 21, 6-10p.m.

Bradley ANG Base, 100 Nicholson Road, East Granby, CT

\$5 for adults and \$3 for children 12 and under

Hosts for the evenings will be the 103rd Fighter Wing Family Program, Civil Air Patrol, Squadrons and groups on base will each host different scary Venues.

This event is open to Air and Army Guard families.

Retirement Celebration in Honor of

Brigadier General

George A. Demers

State of Connecticut, Assistant Adjutant General for Air

Celebrating 46 years of Service

Date: Friday, January 26, 2001

Location: Aqua Turf Club, Plantsville, CT

Civilian Attire, Semi-Formal

Cocktails: 6:30, Dinner 7:30

Dinner Choices: Prime Rib, Baked Stuffed Shrimp, Chicken Francaise

Cost per person: \$45.00

POC: MSgt Kris Toro, (860) 548-3221; DSN-636-7955

Mrs. Donna Mullen, (860) 524-4957

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO HQ/CTANG ACTIVITY FUND



242nd to Host Military Ball

A military ball, sponsored by Company B, 242nd Engineers, will be held on Saturday, October 28, 2000, at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Newington, Conn., from 6:00 p.m. to midnight. Doors will open at 5:00 p.m.

This event is open to all military personnel and their spouses or guests, and military retirees and their spouses or guests. Come join us for a night of music, food and fun and share in the tradition that has been shared by so many.

Entertainment will be by the club band "Rush Hour".

The menu will include: Appetizers, Roast Beef, Roast Pork, Roast Chicken, Garlic Shrimp, Rice, Oven Roasted Potatoes, Salad, Ziti, Sausage & Peppers, Bread & Butter, Coffee, Tea, Desert and a cash bar hosted by the Knights of Columbus.

Uniform will be Class A with white shirt and black bow tie or Dress Mess Whites or Dress Mess Blues, or for retirees, the before mentioned uniforms or jacket and tie.

Tickets are priced as follows:

E-1 to E-5 & Retirees Single \$28.00 Couple \$50.00

E-6&7 & O1&2 Single \$32.00 Couple \$60.00

E-8 & O3 & Above Single \$36.00 Couple \$62.00

RSVP NLT October 21, 2000

For further information and tickets, contact Sgt. 1st Class Derek Stanton at (860) 871-6539 EXT 13

TASS continued from page 1

Republics. Other state units are slated for activation within the next year. Prior to being cleared for active duty service, soldiers must qualify to standards set and evaluated by active duty personnel.

"It ought to be transparent, whether a unit is Active Army, National Guard or Reserve," said Lt. Col. Matthew Green, commander of TIE, based at Devens, Mass. Conference organizers said that can be achieved by training to the same standards for all tasks, MOS-specific or not.

The main goal of the conference was to gather leaders in the Northeast Region, to chart a course for TASS in the region, and to identify and solve systemic problems, Green said. "This conference encouraged free-flowing discussion from senior leaders to identify and deal with specific problems they face, and to overcome those problems in order to help train our soldiers.

"The lessons learned here have been very valuable. We're sharing our successes, as well as our problems," said Green, who praised Byrne for organizing the conference. "This is the first of its kind; and now we hope to do this every year, in a different state. I can't stress how crucial Col. Byrne's vision was. He wanted to get a national platform for this region."

Byrne has also been instrumental in establishing distance-learning in the Connecticut Guard. This concept, along with extensive utilization of other modern technological resources such as websites, are playing a vital role in the effort to implement TASS successfully.

Course materials and standards are main parts of the equation, especially when considering the use of computers and the Internet. But, modern buildings are also important considerations.

Cugno spoke about the importance of reserve component units modernizing their facilities, to help improve learning abilities. Connecticut facilities have been upgraded recently, featuring dramatic improvements at Camp Rowland during this calendar year. More improvements are in the works, as detailed on a series of colorful engineer designs on display for attendees to see during breaks.

The facilities at Camp Rowland impressed Capt. Margaret Riley, director of leadership development for the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. She toured the camp with Byrne, after he suggested the Leadership Regiment and the Coast Guard Academy in nearby New London could share resources. The two gave each other tours of their respective facilities, and immediately began looking for ways to help each other combine resources.

"There's already an opportunity for interaction, and we're looking for ways to do it more regularly," she said.

There's a possibility that the two educational facilities will develop some type of instructor-sharing cooperative in the future.

**Heritage continued from page 1**

During his remarks, Buscaglia acknowledged that this event represents an opportunity for him to address the audience to make those in attendance aware of the importance and necessity of what he was about to say, although some statements may be disturbing. He was here to speak to the audience not as a sculptor, but as an educator. Buscaglia used his speech to take the audience on a journey through history and he explained how history has shaped present day conditions.

"We must understand history and use it to improve the quality of our lives, our communities and continue to develop positive traces for the Hispanic culture," he said. He challenged all ethnic groups and communities to work together to make this country what it should be. His message that we have more in common than are our differences, is a call to action, to make better our communities, state and nation. "We can only survive as a great nation by working with each other."

The Student Achievement Awards were presented to the award recipients by Col. (P) I. J. Zembruski, representing the Connecticut National Guard, and Kathleen A. Felsted, diversity development specialist – United States Postal Service. The awardees included: Delilah L. Ortiz-Bacon, Stonington High School; Tanya Polier, A.I. Technical High School; Jose E. Arriaga, Windham Middle School; Felicia Maldonado, Dominick F. Burns Middle School; Mark Anthony Rivera, Elias Howe Elementary School; and Alexandra Romeos, Elizabeth Shelton Elementary School.

The Military Awards were presented to 1st Sgt. Oscar Roasdo, 143rd Forward Support Battalion and Tech. Sgt. Frank Gonzalez.

The United States Postal Service Awards were presented to Mary L. Benner, East

Windsor Hill Postmaster and Raul Perez, distribution clerk, Hartford PEDC.

There were many highlights that filled the afternoon's activities. Two of the most memorable came during the awarding of the Student

Achievement Awards when Alverio read the students responses to the question: Who is your role model and why? Polier said, "My role model is my mother. My mother has never let me down. She is kind and a caring person. She has all the patience and love in the world. That's the kind of person I'd like to be."

Ortiz-Bacon said, "My role model is Esmeralda Santiago. Her strength and perseverance throughout her difficult and overwhelming childhood between Puerto Rico and New York up until the moment she graduated from Harvard, are part of what inspire me to do well in school and to keep my own goals and standards high."

Romeos said, "My role model is my mom because she is smart and helpful. Mom has taught me to bake cupcakes and brownies and is always there to help with the homework. She works at the hospital helping people."



In response to the question: What do you believe are the most important issues facing today's youth? Maldonado said, "One issue that I believe is the most important is peer pressure. Many pre-teens and teens face peer pressure everyday. They may be pressured to have sex, steal, drink alcohol or go some place they don't want to go. There are many ways to deal with peer pressure. You could tell an adult, walk away or just straight out tell them "NO". This may be hard to do but you have to stand up for yourself."

The other memorable moment came when the young people from Mi Casa performed a cultural dance titled Raices, which stands for "Roots." They brought the audience to their feet as they performed the various moves of the dance. They were very proud and deserving of the praise they received.

When asked what this event meant to him, Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Rafael Marquez, 103rd Fighter Wing, said, "This event represents an opportunity for the Hispanic community to tell our story. This is a story of a proud tradition of serving in the military and National Guard. We must all educate ourselves to gain a better understanding of our culture and what our culture is about. We all have blind spots about different ethnic groups and ourselves. This hurts our military mission when we have this lack of understanding. What is needed in a combat zone is to feel we can talk to all the people around us. If we feel we can not, it puts all of us at risk. We should take advantage of every opportunity we can to learn about each other, because in war we will all be in it together."

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